

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 27, 1997

LB 99

activities, I believe, that takes place, it's done in a social setting. As has been pointed out to me several times, at most of these games there is no alcohol. It's a, frankly, your classic little old ladies sitting down and having a good time playing a game that does not cost them a lot, but in the end does benefit the charities that are running the game. This is Senator Lynch's priority bill. And, Senator Lynch, if you would like to take some of my time, or the rest of my time on my opening, you are welcome to it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Lynch, there are three minutes remaining.

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, thank you very much. Madam President, members, I simply want to stand to support this effort. I took it as a priority bill because I think it's an important enough issue, at this time, for not only our state, but also for those charitable organizations that depend on this kind of revenue. And there's a lot of them out there, not only service clubs and organizations, but also churches as well. People that use this kind of funding mechanism do a lot of good in a lot of ways for an awful lot of people and they do it privately. When you consider the source of the money, it's a voluntary source of money. Nobody is forced to go play bingo, for example. I don't know about your districts, but my district is right across the river from the dens of inequity, over there in Council Bluffs. And I can tell you they're hurting. You can drive to some of our very nice restaurants in the Florence and north Omaha area and they're nothing like they used to be in the past, because now the people that used to come down into our part of town to get a bite to eat, or go to one of the veterans clubs or whatever else it might be, simply take a drive across the river and eat for half of what it costs there, and while they're there drop a lot of shackles (sic) at the gambling tables. It's been estimated that almost 80 percent of the money collected over in Council Bluffs are from people from eastern Nebraska. I think you're all smart enough to know that. I would be very concerned for municipalities that on the one hand say gambling is in fact a terrible...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.